

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BUDAPE 01429 071627Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 HA-05 SS-15 L-03 /037 W  
-----041700 071641Z /45  
P 071544Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1163

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 1429

E.O.11652: NA  
TAGS: PEPR  
SUBJECT: JEWISH CEMETERIES IN HUNGARY

REF: (A) BUDAPEST 1372 (B) STATE 82676

SUMMARY: THERE IS NO PROBLEM OF GOVERNMENT EXPROPRIATION OF  
JEWISH CEMETERIES IN HUNGARY. END SUMMARY.

1. DCM MET APR 7 WITH IMRE HEBER, PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF HUNGARIAN JEWS, AND TWO OTHER JEWISH OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE ALLEGED EXPROPRIATION OF JEWISH CEMETERIES IN HUNGARY, SPECIFICALLY, THE CEMETERY IN ASZOD.
2. HEBER EXPLAINED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO EXPROPRIATION OF JEWISH CEMETERIES IN HUNGARY BY THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT. HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE ARE ALMOST 1,000 JEWISH CEMETERIES IN HUNGARY, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS MORE THAN ENOUGH BURIAL SITES, AND IS UNDER NO PRESSURE FROM THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT TO GIVE UP ANY CEMETERIES. HE SPECIFICALLY ASSERTED THAT THERE IS NO EXPROPRIATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST JEWISH HOLDINGS OF ANY KIND AND EXPRESSED COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF HUNGARIAN JEWS.

3. HEBER ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ISOLATED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BUDAPE 01429 071627Z

CASES -- HE ESTIMATED THREE OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS  
-- IN WHICH A LOCAL TOWN COUNCIL HAS WANTED TO USE SOME  
LAND WHICH IS OWNED BY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AND MAY BE  
USED AS A CEMETERY. IN EACH OF THESE CASES THE TOWN  
COUNCIL HAS NEGOTIATED WITH THE LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY  
AND HAS REACHED A SOLUTION WHICH IS MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY. IN HIS OPINION, THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT ITSELF

IS NOT EVEN AWARE OF THESE CASES SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN ALWAYS SATISFACTORILY SETTLED ON THE LOCAL LEVEL.

4. IN THE CASE OF ASZOD, HEBER EXPLAINED THAT THE JEWISH CEMETERY ADJOINS THE TOWN COUNCIL BUILDING. AS THE TOWN HAS DEVELOPED, THE JEWISH PROPERTY HAS BECOME DESIRABLE REAL ESTATE. EIGHT MONTHS AGO THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROACHED THE LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY WITH THE REQUEST TO BUY A SMALL PIECE OF LAND WHICH DIRECTLY JOINED THE TOWN HALL. THE AREA INVOLVED IS 1,400 SQ. METERS, OUT OF THE TOTAL AREA OF THE CEMETERY OF 5,600 SQ. METERS.

5. THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFERED TO PURCHASE THE LAND AND REINTER AT ITS OWN EXPENSE THE REMAINS IN THE 100 GRAVES WHICH WOULD BE AFFECTED. ACCORDING TO HEBER THERE IS SUFFICIENT AREA LEFT IN THE CEMETERY TO RELOCATE ALL 100 GRAVES. THE ONLY COST INVOLVED TO THE FAMILIES WOULD BE TRANSPORTATION OF THE REMAINS TO ISRAEL OR BUDAPEST IF THE FAMILY SO WISHED.

6. HEBER EXPLAINED THAT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS BEEN ASSURED THAT THE EXHUMATION AND REINTERMENT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH JEWISH TRADITION AND LAW. HE ADDED THAT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IS COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS IT HAS MADE WITH THE TOWN COUNCIL. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT THERE IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BUDAPE 01429 071627Z

NO QUESTION OF ANTISEMITISM OR PERSECUTION INVOLVED IN THE TOWN COUNCIL'S REQUEST FOR THE LAND. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE COMMUNITY'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE TOWN COUNCIL WERE CARRIED OUT IN COMPLETE HARMONY AND THAT THERE IS NO DISSENSION WITHIN THE HUNGARIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY ABOUT THE PLAN TO SELL THE LAND AND EXHUME AND RELOCATE THE 100 GRAVES AFFECTED.

7. NO GRAVES HAVE BEEN RELOCATED YET. THE HUNGARIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS PUBLICIZED THE RELOCATION OF THE 100 GRAVES BOTH IN HUNGARY AND THROUGH INTERNATIONAL JEWISH PUBLICATIONS. OF THE 100 GRAVES, 15 FAMILIES HAVE EXPRESSED WISHES CONCERNING THE REINTERMENT OF THE REMAINS. HEBER EXPECTS THE EXHUMATION TO TAKE PLACE IN MAY OR JUNE. THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WILL RECEIVE ONE MONTH'S PRE-NOTIFICATION AND WILL CARRY OUT THE REINTERMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH JEWISH LAW AND TRADITION.

8. HEBER SAID THAT THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT WERE FREE TO USE HIS NAME AND THE ABOVE INFORMATION IN REPLYING TO RABBI BARRY DOV LERNER AND ANY OTHER INQUIRER.

9. COMMENT: HEBER'S EXPLANATION WAS QUITE CONVINCING. THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO THE EMBASSY TO BE ANY BASIS TO RABBI LERNER'S ALLEGATION THAT THE REINTERMENT OF JEWISH REMAINS AT ASZOD IS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE OR IN ANY WAY REPRESENTS AN ANTISEMITIC MOVE ON THE PART OF THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT. IF ANY FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED, HEBER AND THE OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE HUNGARIAN COMMUNITY ARE MORE THAN WILLING TO RESPOND TO EMBASSY INQUIRIES.  
KAISER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JEWS, CEMETERIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BUDAPE01429  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780150-1196  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BUDAPEST  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780482/aaaacrtl.tel  
**Line Count:** 126  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 27a8d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 BUDAPEST 1372, 78 STATE 82676  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3045768  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JEWISH CEMETERIES IN HUNGARY  
**TAGS:** PEPR, SCUL, HU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/27a8d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014